

REMARKS

The application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed August 22, 2002. Claims 1-5 remain pending in the Application. Claims 1 and 5 have been amended above to clarify that the character message transmitted in Claim 1 and the character message received in Claim 5 is "in character format". Support for this amendment is found in the specification, for example, at page 8, lines 22-24.

Turning to the rejections given in the Office Action, independent Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,385,585 to Jonsson et al. The Examiner points in particular to Jonsson col. 2, lines 56-62, col. 3, lines 46-59, col. 9, lines 44-58, and col. 11, lines 4-15.

The cited portions of Jonsson appear to describe converting digital input signals into a sequence of corresponding formant frequencies and then transmitting the sequences over a voice channel. Claim 1 as amended above, however, makes clear that the character message is transmitted via the speech path "in character format".

Thus, for at least this reason, amended Claim 1 is distinguishable from Jonsson. Reconsideration and allowance of Claim 1 is respectfully requested. Without conceding the patentability per se of dependent Claims 2-4, it is submitted that Claims 2-4 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependencies on independent Claim 1. Reconsideration and allowance of Claims 2-4 is also respectfully requested.

Independent Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) based on the combination of Jonsson and U.S. Patent No. 5,687,216 to Svensson. Analogous to Claim 1, however, Jonsson does not show "receiving a character message in character format from the mobile communication terminal of the other party via the speech path",

as recited in Claim 5 as amended. Without conceding that the combination of Jonsson and Svensson is proper, for at least this reason the combination of Jonsson and Svensson fails to describe all of the recitations of Claim 5 as amended. Thus, Jonsson and Svensson fail to render Claim 5 obvious for at least this reason. Reconsideration and allowance of Claim 5 is also respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now pending in the application, namely Claims 1-5 are in condition for allowance. Early and favorable consideration and allowance of Claims 1-5 is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone or personal interview may facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, he is respectfully requested to phone applicants' attorney at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Requirements as per 37 C.F.R. 1.21(c)(1)(ii)

Rewritten claims marked up to show all the changes relative to the previous version of the claims:

1. (Amended) A method for transmitting a character message in a mobile communication terminal during a conversation by telephone, comprising the steps of:

setting the mobile communication terminal to a character message-transmitting/receiving mode while in a state in which a speech path has been established between the mobile communication terminal and a mobile communication terminal of a party other than the user; and

inputting a character message while in the character message-transmitting/receiving mode, processing the written character message and transmitting the written character message in character format to the mobile communication terminal of the other party via the established speech path in the character message-transmitting/receiving mode.

5. (Amended) A method for receiving a character message in a mobile communication terminal during a conversation by telephone, comprising the steps of:

establishing a speech path between the mobile communication terminal and a mobile communication terminal of another party;

receiving a character message in character format from the mobile communication terminal of the other party via the speech path; and

processing and displaying the received character message.